

From: Dorothy Craig <dorothy@dpcraig.com>
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2022 3:40 PM
To: DES SBCC
Subject: Proposed Amendments to State Residential Building Code

External Email

Dear SBCC members,

I urge you to approve **all the proposed amendments** to the state residential building code. The climate crisis is accelerating and causing death and destruction worldwide. Here in Western Washington, we have been experiencing weeks of unhealthy, smoke-filled air from wildfires which are more frequent and more intense due to climate change.

[According to Dr. Jeffrey Duchin](#), health officer at Public Health - Seattle & King County, "Climate change is the single greatest threat to human health on the planet."

The best way to fight climate change is to *stop burning fossil fuels*. **Requiring new homes to use heat pumps rather than gas for space and water heating is a crucial, common-sense, and overdue step in the right direction.** There is nothing radical about requiring heat pumps. What's radical, as well as being irresponsible and dangerous, is allowing new construction to be built to use gas even as the habitability of our planet unravels and safe, effective alternatives - namely electric heat pumps - are readily available. In addition to slowing climate change, heat pumps will help us survive our increasingly hot summers, since they are effective at cooling buildings as well as heating them.

Gas is just as bad for the climate as coal, because of the methane that leaks at every step of its extraction, transportation, and use, as well as from abandoned wells. Methane is a much more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide, and the gas industry has hoodwinked the public for years by calling gas a "clean fuel."

Please approve all the proposed amendments.

Thank you for your attention to this rule change.

Sincerely yours,
Dorothy Craig
Seattle, Washington